

REMARKS

Claims 1-31 are pending, of which Claims 16-31 have been withdrawn from consideration.

Response to Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

A. Claims 1-10, 12, and 14-15 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over WO 03/032305 to Kitano et al.;

B. Claim 11 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Kitano in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,586,496 to Takamatsu et al.; and

C. Claims 11 and 13 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Kitano in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0129385 to Hojo et al.

Applicants respectfully traverse.

The present claims are directed to a photo-curable transfer sheet having a photo-curable transfer layer comprising a photo-curable composition, the photo-curable composition being deformable by application of pressure and containing a reactive polymer having a photopolymerizable functional group, wherein the photo-curable transfer layer shows linearity in relationship between strain [γ] (%) and time [t] (second) determined by a creep test using a dynamic viscoelasticity measuring apparatus under the conditions of an ordinary temperature, stress of 50Pa and a time period of 120 seconds, and satisfies a following formula:

$$\log \gamma = a + b \cdot \log t$$

in which "a" is a real number, and "b" is in the range of 0.10 to 0.53.

Kitano discloses a photo-curable transfer sheet having a photo-curable transfer layer comprising a photo-curable composition. Moreover, Kitano discloses that the photo-curable composition is deformable by application of pressure and contains a reactive polymer having a photopolymerizable functional group. See Claim 1. However, Kitano does not disclose or suggest a photo-curable transfer layer having the presently claimed specific dynamic viscoelasticity.

According to the Examiner, the composition formed in Applicants' specification at paragraphs [0283]-[0286] is identical to that formed in Kitano at paragraphs [0164]-[0167], except that the Applicants have added a tackifier. In this regard, Applicants direct the Examiner's attention to the disclosure at paragraphs [0283]-[0287] and Table 2 of the present specification. As shown, Example 5 uses Formulation II containing a specific tackifier, and Comparative Example 2 uses Formulation II containing no specific tackifier. Moreover, Comparative Example 2 corresponds to Example 3 of Kitano. See, paragraphs [0164]-[0167] of Kitano. As shown in Table 2 of the present specification, Example 5 satisfies the presently claimed "b" value," but Comparative Example 2 (i.e., Example 3 of the Kitano reference) does not satisfy the presently claimed "b" value. Further, the transfer sheet of Comparative Example 2 exhibits occurrences of bleeding and poor thickness accuracy.

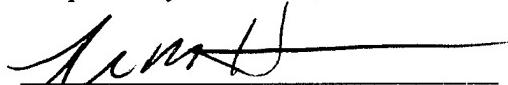
Thus, compared with Kitano, the composition of the present invention is further improved by, for example, the addition of the specific tackifier in order to satisfy the presently claimed "b" value."

Takamatsu and Hojo fail to make up for the deficiencies of Kitano.

Thus, Kitano, Takamatsu and Hojo fail to render obvious the present claims. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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